

S.N. 09/972,575
Art Unit 3727
Atty Dkt PP5.78(a)CVL

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method of opening and closing a container, said method comprising:

providing said container comprising:

a body portion having at least one wall;

a dispensing opening;

a lid movably attached to said body portion;

a panel formed in said at least one wall of said body portion;

wherein said panel is attached to said lid;

moving said container to an open condition, in which product can be dispensed from said container through said dispensing opening, by applying an opening force to said lid, wherein said opening force causes said panel to separate from said at least one wall, thereby forming a hole in said at least one wall;

moving said container to a closed condition by applying a closing force to said lid;

releasably retaining said container ~~lid~~ in said closed condition by engaging at least a portion of said panel with at least a portion of said wall;

wherein said container further comprises a sheet of material covering said hole while said container is in said open condition;

wherein, said panel includes a stationary portion and a hinge portion separated from said stationary portion by a score line;

wherein, said stationary portion is attached to said lid; and

wherein, said engaging at least a portion of said panel with at least a portion of said wall comprises engaging said hinge portion with said at least a portion of said wall.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said lid is a flip top lid.

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3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said sheet of material is a sheet of fluid impervious material.

Claims 5 and 6 (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said engaging at least a portion of said panel with at least a portion of said wall comprises engaging said at least a portion of said panel with at least a portion of said wall within said hole.

8. (previously presented) A container comprising:
a body portion having at least one wall;
a dispensing opening;
a lid movably attached to said body portion;

wherein said container includes a first condition before said container has initially been opened, a second open condition in which product can be dispensed from said container through said dispensing opening and a third re-closed condition;

wherein, in said first condition, a panel is attached to both said at least one wall of said body portion and said lid;

wherein in said second condition, said panel remains attached to said lid but has been removed from said at least one wall, thus leaving a hole in said at least one wall;

wherein, in said third condition, at least a portion of said panel is releasably engaged with at least a portion of said wall;

a sheet of material covering said hole while said container is in said

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second open condition;

wherein, said panel includes a stationary portion and a hinge portion separated from said stationary portion by a score line;

wherein, said stationary portion is attached to said lid; and

wherein said at least a portion of said panel comprises said hinge portion.

9. (original) The container of claim 8 wherein said lid is a flip top lid.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The container of claim 8 wherein said sheet of material is a sheet of fluid impervious material.

Claims 12 - 33 (canceled)